Communal disturbances in the country

191. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a number of communal disturbances in various cities of the country in the recent past;

(b) what are the names of the cities where communal disturbances broke out during the last three months;

(c) the estimated loss of life and property in each city; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken by Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: (a) to (c) On the basis of available information, there have been incidents of major communal violence in the following cities during the last three months:—

Serial No.	Name of the city where the incident occurred	Date of occurrence	No. of persons killed	Loss of property (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Bidar (Karnataka) . . .	14th and 15th September, 1988	6	Rs. 50.00 lakhs
2.	Aligarh	8th	5	Not
	Muzaffarnagar	to	24	available
	Khatauli (all in U.P.) . .	14th	2	
3.	Faizabad (U.P)	21st to 24th Oct. 1988	5	Not available

(d) As regards the communal violence which took place at Bidar on 14th and 15th September, 1988, immediately upon learning of the communal clash, the Minister of State (Internal Security) discussed the matter with the Governor of Karnataka and the Union Home Secretary discussed with the Chief Secretary, Karnatake the situation along with the various measures being taken to control and defuse the communal situation and also urged him to take all possible measures to restore communal harmony. Under the directions of the Prime Minister, a high power team comprising Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Janardhan Poojari, Minister of State for Rural Development, visited Bidar on the 29th September, 1988 and discussed with the Chief Minister at Bangalore on the same day the communal situation at Bidar. It was particularly impressed upon the State Government that all possible steps be taken to re-assure the minority communiy particularly the students at Bidar who could resume their studies immediately.

The Government of Karnataka ordered on 20th September, 1988 a judical enquiry by a judge of the High Court regarding communal violence which took place at Bidar. The Chief Minister of Karnataka announced on 27th October, 1988 that Shri P. K. Shyamsunder, a sitting judge of the Karnataka High Court has been appointed as a One-Man-Judicial- Commission to inquire into the communal violence at Bidar who will submit his report to the Government within three months.

Immediately on hearing of eruption of communal violence at Muzaffarnagar and ohter places in Uttar Pradesh,

the Union Home Minister discussed the matter with Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and assured the State authorities of additional re-inforcements so as to bring the communal situation under control Various measures to deal with anti-social and communal elements were also discussed with the State authorities and a general to all the State Governments/UTs was issued who were requested to take suitable measures to alert the district authorities etc. to prevent any break of violence in the concerned States. The Union Home Minister also urged the members of the coordination committee of the Babri Masjid movement to postpone the contemplated march to Ayudhya on 14th October, 1988 and assured that the Government would try to have a out of court settlement on the Ram Janmabhoomi Babri Masjid issue and failing which the legal process will be got expedited. Consequent to this assurance of the Government the coordination committee of the Babri Masjid called of its proposed march to Ayodhya.

Material support in terms of paramilitary forces and equipment is provided to the State Governments as and when occasion arised or demands are made to ensure them to effectively manage and control the riot situation on ground. Further, the Central Government has circulated a set of guidelines to the States Govements to help them manage communal violence and restore as well as reinforce communal harmony. Amongst these are the guidelines for preventing and controlling communal violence, the guidelines for processions and guidelines for relief and rehabilitation measures.

Apart from the above, from time to time the National Integration Council has been deliberating on the long term measures of evolving a secular society. The report of the Standing Committee of the National Integration Council has been commended to the State Governments.

Lessons have been drawn from the recent riots e.g the Meerut and based upon this experience a fresh set of guidelines was circulated to the State Governments on 26th February, 1988.

In view of the happenings in Punjab and other parts of the country, the question of prevention of misuse of religious institutions for political and illegal purposes as also in the context of separation of religion from politics, the need was felt to check this misuse immediately and accordingly the Religous Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Ordinance, 1988 was promulgated on 26th May, 1988. Subsequently, a Bill to replace this Ordinance was introduced in the Monsoon Session of Parliament which was enacted on 2nd September, 1988..

Seizure of Heroin on Indo-Pak Border in Punjab

192. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 16th October, 1988 to the effect that heroin worth Rs. 100 crore has been seized on the Indo-Pak border in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made in this connection;

(c) what action Government have taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) what are the details of the steps being taken to check such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Regional Unit, Amritsar, in collaboration with the Border Security Force, seized 100 packets of brownish powder (suspected